

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XVII, No. 4, April, 1919

EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Splendid Program.—The annual meeting this year promises to surpass all its predecessors in the variety and profitable character of the convention program. The only regret that comes as one glances over the subject titles and names of the able authors of attractive scientific papers is that one must miss some of them, as we cannot divide ourselves and be in several places at the same time.

There is one unique feature of the program, however, that all may attend. The League for the Conservation of Public Health has arranged a luncheon at the Potter Hotel for Wednesday, April 16th, to which all the Convention delegates are most cordially invited. . . .

When Doctors Disagree.—The Doctor is always expected to win in the never-ending conflict with disease. When judges or theologians disagree no one seems greatly disturbed or surprised. Statesmen may change rapidly and radically upon fundamental policies and still be hailed with enthusiastic applause. But when Doctors disagree the equanimity of some of the people is immediately agitated.

It is natural for Doctors to disagree for our profession as a whole demands incontrovertible evidence before it will accept any new doctrine. The medical profession does not proceed on assumptions or fanciful theories or baseless fabrics of dreams. The difference between Doctors who differ on some unsolved problems and their captious critics who agree on preposterous theories is the difference we always find between fact and fiction. A fairy story is more pleasing to a childish mind than a recital of facts.

The candid confession of the medical profession that science had not yet discovered any standard uniform methods either for the cure or prevention of influenza is a splendid assurance to thinking people that when the Doctors are agreed upon a method or measure it is because it has stood every acid test of science and practical experience. . . .

Payment of State Tax.—In 1918 an act passed the Legislature assessing an annual tax of two dollars against each registered physician in California. In case of non-payment by March 1, the license of the offender would be subject to revocation and he could only be reinstated by paying a fee of ten dollars. This tax money is to be employed in the prosecution of illegal practitioners and similar work necessary to protect licensed physicians. On the whole, the tax is a good thing and provides an urgently needed fund for very necessary work. . . .

The Business of Medicine.—Medicine is an art. It has become a science. It is and will increasingly be a business. The physician must live and support his share of social and economic order. In return for his income he has a very definite commodity to offer, a very definite contribution to make to society. This commodity is his scientific

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

By F. N. SCATENA, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

An oral examination was held at the Board office, 907 State Building, Los Angeles, March 16, 1944.

• The next written examination will be held at Native Sons Hall, San Francisco, June 27 to 29, inc., 1944. In addition to the regularly scheduled written examinations others have been held at frequent intervals to assist in securing licensed physicians and surgeons because of the war emergency.

News

"The age limit was raised today from 50 to 55 for doctors qualified to serve as specialist medical officers in the Navy, as a measure to release younger doctors for service at sea, the Office of Naval Officer Procurement announced. Qualified doctors were urged to apply at that office, 703 Market St." (San Francisco News, March 4, 1944.)

"What would Wasco do without doctors? These faithful medical folk who put long hours in their offices seeing the sick or ailing and listening to many a tale of woe. . . . Hospital visits, long rides to far distant patients, and phone calls by the score. These are but a part of the long tedious task of these professional leaders. When the Scroll of Honor of our town is inscribed surely the doctors deserve a place at the head of the list. All honor to friend doctor!" (Wasco News, February 18, 1944.)

"Dr. William J. Ross, physician, 1300 Venice Blvd., yesterday was ordered held to answer in Superior Court on a charge of murder and criminal surgery following a preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge Joseph F. Chambers. Dr. Ross is alleged to have performed an illegal operation which resulted in the death of Mrs. Isabell Jenkins, 25, of 1883 W. 20th St., Feb. 12. The physician denies the charge." (Los Angeles Times, February 26, 1944.)

"Arrested on a charge of practicing medicine without a license, Mrs. Nolia Sanders, 48 years old, 2406 Foot-hill Blvd., pleaded guilty in San Bernardino township court yesterday and paid a fine of \$300. Mrs. Sanders was sentenced by Justice Russell A. Wickizer and was taken into custody on a complaint signed by S. W. Brooks, agent of the state medical board. . . . Mrs. Sanders was charged with violation of the state business and professional code, a misdemeanor." (San Bernardino Sun, January 23, 1944.)

"Dr. Charles E. Boudwin, 62, and Mrs. Ella Berry, 40, who gave her occupation as a nurse, were held today after being arrested late yesterday by Oakland inspectors

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.